

Approved 4/8/2014

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

March 13, 2014 7:30 PM

Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: Board of Finance members Chmn. Steve Ezzes, members Melissa Koller, Dick Bochinski, and Allan Grauberd. Secretary Donna M. Anastasia. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Colleen Palmer, Spec. Ed Director Lois Pernice, Finance Director Schools Dr. JoAnn Keating, Police Chief John Troxell, Police Sgt. Mike Ferullo, Police Sgt. Pat Daubert, Police Commission Chmn Bill Brady, Police Commission V Chair Beth Gralnick, First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Craig Cohen Fire Department Pres., Margaret Wirtenberg.

*Unable to attend David Finkel, Jerry Sargent and Michael Carter.*

Chairman Ezzes called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

**Discussion/decision regarding request of funding from the Vehicle Sinking Fund in the amount of 82,576. for the purchase of two cruisers – Chief Troxell**

Request was presented by Chief Troxell, Sgt. Ferullo and Sgt. Daubert regarding the purchase of two new police vehicles. Once vehicles are somewhat ‘worn’ the cars are then used as unmarked cars. Most cars in the current fleet have 125K miles or more. Warrantees are always purchase at a cost of approximately 1,800. however most cars are now outside of the warrantee period. We are spending money out of our vehicle maintenance account to keep repairing these older vehicles.

Ms. Gralnick felt that the process has been quite lengthy to get to this point for the request. There is about 60K in that fund right now. (20K of this set aside in the budget)

There was general discussion describing the two funds; the vehicle sinking fund and the vehicle revenue fund. There was also discussion regarding the vehicle “turn over” and Sgt Daubert explained that once vehicles reach a high amount of mileage (125K) the repair costs escalate. It is his opinion that it is wiser to turn the vehicles over earlier saving much higher repair costs down the road.

The goal is to have the new vehicles up and running before July.

Mr. Grauberd mentioned a police vehicle garage which could in the long run extend the life of the vehicles. Mr. Brady mentioned there is also an insurance benefit by having a garage.

**Motion:** *Ms. Koller made a motion to approve \$83,576. for the purchase of two police cruisers; \$27,000 from the Vehicle Revenue Fund and the remaining amount from the Vehicle Sinking Fund. Mr. Bochinski seconded and with all in favor motion carries unanimously.*

**Discussion/decision regarding various capital account transfers totaling \$60,000 for the purpose of completing the Pool HVAC project. - Supt. Palmer**

Dr. Keating went over the original planning and the revising of the HVAC project. Unforeseen modifications had to be made which resulted in additional costs specifically changing the original location of the system. The new equipment replaces a 40 year old system. This request is to *move* funds from other capital accounts to cover this item.

***Motion:*** *Melissa Koller made a motion to approve the request to transfer from various capital accounts totaling \$60,000. For the purpose of completing the Pool HVAC project, Mr. Bochinski seconded and with all in favor motion carries unanimously.*

**Discussion/decision regarding BOE year end financial outlook. – Supt. Palmer**

Dr Palmer stated in an effort to get a handle on energy costs a decision was made to burn some of the oil available and offset some of the gas cost. We expect that those accounts will be under a lot of pressure. Snow removal has been excessive this year.

Dr. Palmer went over teacher staffing. We have until August to take teachers out if we are under the limit. If we are right on the cusp we talk about the composition of the class. We have a lot of flexibility until mid- August to make changes.

The BOE would like to give accurate numbers before decisions are made and that would most likely be May. The Board of Selectmen has already agreed to a supplemental appropriation for Special Education if needed.

**Discussion/decision regarding requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Weston Volunteer Fire Department.- Craig Cohen, President WVFD.**

First Selectman Weinstein briefly went over the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Weston and the Volunteer Fire Department . *\* Details of this memorandum (MOU) and the Volunteer Fire Department Medical Insurance Incentive Plan are made part of these minutes.*

First Selectman Weinstein explained that the Fire Department has received a substantial bequest. As a result the Fire Department has agreed to cover the cost of capital items totaling approximately \$600,000. over the next three years. This may include the purchase of a fire truck, SCBA equipment, or other equipment agreed to by the parties.

Most of the discussion regarded the health insurance coverage which is part of the agreement. Mr. Bochinski asked if there had been a prior MOU in place and Mr. Landry explained that a *'Selectmen approved'* policy was in place and has since been revised.

Mr. Cohen stated that while the Fire Department is agreeable with the proposal and the purpose of which was to lock in for three years, it "does not extend." It was not our intent for it to be a three year term but it was impossible to get a consensus on what the projections would be at year 3.

There was some discussion regarding membership and qualifying for insurance. All members will qualify for the first level. The plan is equivalent to the police department plan. The benefits are the same but not the cost.

Mr. Cohen stated the original document was presented universally and now contains certain provisions. Our only concern is that by signing this document which is not an ordinance, that it does not negatively impact the weight of the document down the road should we have to rely on it.

***Motion:*** Dick Bochinski made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding referenced at this meeting and described in these minutes; Allan Grauberg seconded and with all in favor and none opposed motion carries.

#### **Discussion/decision regarding FY 13-14 year end Town budget outlook.- Rick Darling**

Mr. Darling went over the FY 2013-2014 budget summary. Total expenditures are primarily due to Board of Education. We came in slightly under last year. Each year snow removal, litigation and police overtime are a few main drivers.

#### **Discussion/ decision regarding presentation of FY2012-13 audit.- Scott Bassett, McGladrey**

This item has been postponed until April.

#### **Discussion/decision regarding approval of meeting minutes of January 9.**

***Motion:*** Dick Bochinski made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9<sup>th</sup> as submitted, Melissa Koller seconded and with all in favor motion carries.

***Motion:*** Mr. Bochinski made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 Pm, Mr. Ezzes seconded and with all in favor motion carries.

Respectfully submitted

Donna M. Anastasia, Secretary

Attachments

Police vehicle purchase back-up  
Department of School Facilities  
Weston Public Schools Financial Report  
Fire Department MOU and Medical Insurance Plan  
Town of Weston FY 2013-2014 Budget Report